

Introduction to Modeling and Simulation, Particle Methods

# Monte Carlo Methods II: Fractal Patterns

Martin Z. Bazant

Department of Mathematics, MIT

Figure removed for copyright reasons.

See Fig. 1 in Bazant, Martin Z., Jaehyuk Choi, and Benny Davidovitch. "Dynamics of Conformal Maps for a Class of Non-Laplacian Growth Phenomena." *Phys Rev Lett* 91, no. 045503 (2003).

# The Sierpinski Carpet: A Non-random Fractal

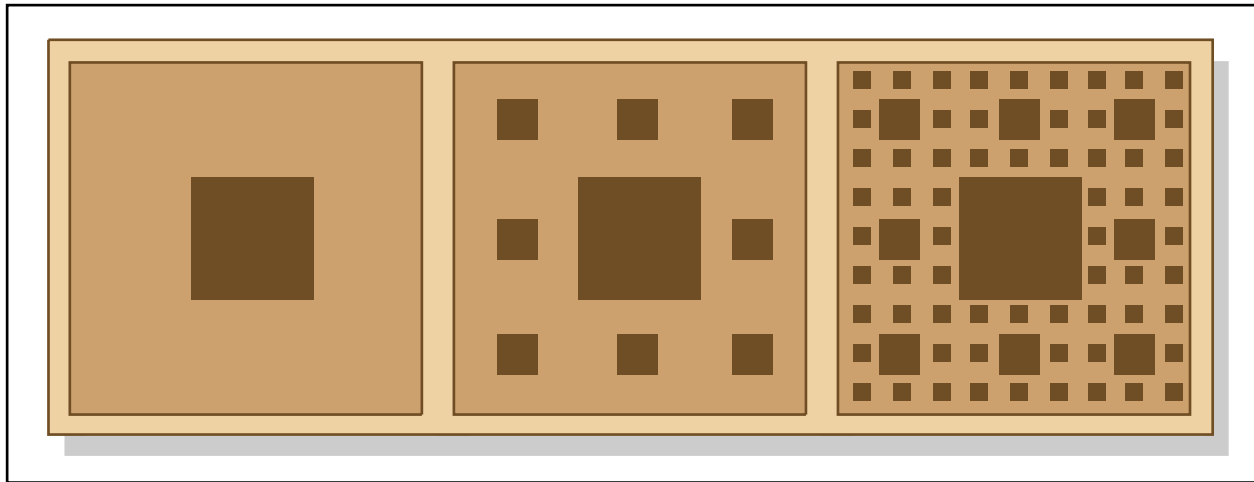


Figure by MIT OCW.

Fractal dimension:  $D = \log 8 / \log 3 = 1.8928$   
Perfectly self-similar

# Critical Percolation Clusters: Random Fractals

Fractal dimension:

$$D = 91/48 = 1.896$$

Figure removed for copyright reasons.

See: Bunde, A., and S. Havlin, eds.

*Fractals and Disordered Systems*. New York, NY:  
Springer, 1996.

*Statistically*  
self-similar

(Bunde & Havlin)

# Fractal Geometry: Linear vs. Chemical Distance

Figure removed for copyright reasons.

See: in Bunde, A., and S. Havlin, eds. *Fractals and Disordered Systems*. New York, NY: Springer, 1996.

(Bunde & Havlin)

# Fractal Geometry: Backbone and “Red Bonds”

Figure removed for copyright reasons.

See: in Bunde, A., and S. Havlin, eds. *Fractals and Disordered Systems*. New York, NY: Springer, 1996.

# Diffusion-Limited Aggregation

T. Witten and L. M. Sander (1981)

Fractal growth by “sticky” random walkers

Try Bob Sumner's  
Mod/Sim demo:  
dla

Figure removed due to copyright reasons.

Off-lattice DLA cluster of  
1,000,000 random walkers,  
colored by time of arrival  
(L. M. Sander)

$$D = 1.71$$

# Some DLA-like patterns in nature

- Electrodeposits  
(CuSO<sub>4</sub> deposit, J. R. Melrose)
- Thin-film surface deposits  
(GeSe<sub>2</sub>/C/Cu film, T. Vicsek)
- Snowflakes (Nittman, Stanley)

Figures removed due to copyright reasons.

# Variants of the DLA Model

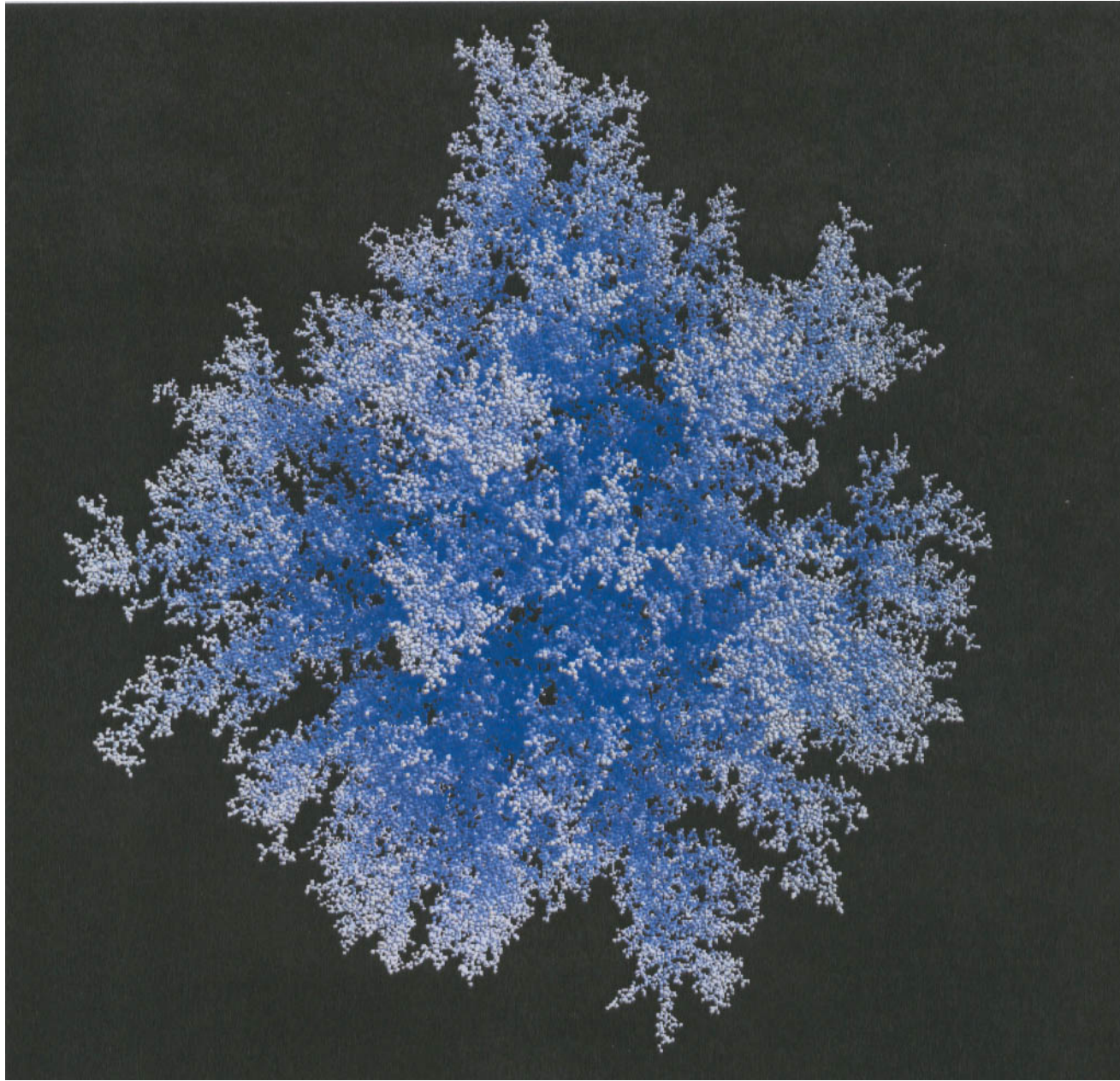
To obtain patterns resembling snowflakes, viscous fingers, electrodeposits, etc. you can play with the model in various ways:

- (i) Non-spherical particle shape to make the fingers more or less “pointy”
- (i) Anisotropy attachment (or walk on a lattice) to establish preferred growth directions
- (ii) Sticking probability  $< 1$  (“noise control”) to fill in the fjords more and lower the fractal dimension

Try the demo “dla” by Bob Sumner to play with (iii).



# DLA in Three Dimensions



100,000 spheres

Simulation by  
Jacquie Yen for a  
Mod/Sim project  
in 2004

Must use analytical  
tricks to accelerate  
the random walks  
in 3D

# Advection-Diffusion-Limited Aggregation

M. Z. Bazant, J. Choi, B. Davidovitch (2003)

“DLA in a fluid flow”

Figures removed for copyright reasons.

See Fig. 1 in Bazant, Martin Z., Jaehyuk Choi, and Benny Davidovitch. "Dynamics of Conformal Maps for a Class of Non-Laplacian Growth Phenomena." *Phys Rev Lett* 91, no. 045503 (2003).

(Simulation by stochastic conformal mapping, NOT sticky random walkers)

# DLA on a Sphere

(J. Choi, D. Crowdy, M. Z. Bazant)

Figure removed for copyright reasons.

See Fig. 12 in Bazant, Martin, and D. Crowdy. "Conformal mapping methods for interfacial dynamics." In *The Handbook of Materials Modeling*. Edited by S. Yip, et al. Vol. 1. Article 4.10. New York, NY: Springer, 2005.

# DLA on Constant Curvature Surfaces

“Heaven and Hell”

M.C. Escher ( [www.mcescher.com](http://www.mcescher.com) )

“Circle Limit IV”



Figure removed for copyright reasons.

See

<http://www.mcescher.com/Gallery/symmetry-bmp/E45.jpg>

Figure removed for copyright reasons.  
See "Circle Limit IV," artwork by M.C. Escher.

Figures removed for copyright reasons.

Source: Choi, J., M. Z. Bazant, and D. Crowdy. *Diffusion-limited Aggregation on Curved Surfaces*. Preprint.